

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CCO-00 /093 W
-----051209Z 076099 /41

O 061155Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4743
INFO AMEMBASSY VICTORIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY MOGODISCIO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 9324

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: SEYCHELLES: MANCHAM ON THE COUP
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EXO

1. EMBASSY OFFICER HAS SPOKEN SEVERAL TIMES BY PHONE WITH JIMMY MANCHAM SINCE NEWS OF THE SEYCHELLES COUP BROKE HERE EARLY THIS A.M. MANCHAM IS DISTRESSED AND STILL TRYING TO SORT OUT THE FACTS AND HIS OWN REACTIONS. HE WILL MEET WITH THE PRESS SOMETIMES TODAY. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBASSY OFFICER (WHO HAS KNOWN MANCHAM FOR SEVERAL YEARS) THE EXPRESIDENT MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

2. MANCHAM HAS TRIED TO KEEP SEYCHELLES OUT OF BIG POWER POLITICS BUT THE WEST HAS LET HIM DOWN.

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THE WEST'S WEAK SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA INVITED THE LEFT WING COUP. THE SOVIETS ARE MOVING IN AFRICA AND THE INDIAN OCEAN ALMOST AT WILL BECAUSE THE US LACKS RESOLVE. "THE BASTARDS OPENED THEIR EMBASSY IN VICTORIA 2 DAYS BEFORE I LEFT."

3. THE MANCHAM GOVERNMENT WAS DEMOCRATICALLY AND CONSTITUTIONALLY ELECTED. UNLESS AMERICA SPEAKS FORCEFULLY AGAINST THE COUP IT

WILL MAKE A MOCKERY OF ITS DEVOTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS.

4. MANCHAM WENT ALONG WITH A COALITION GOVERNMENT AT THE URGING OF THE BRITISH. HE HAS NOW BEEN DOUBLE CROSSED BY THEM AND BY RENE'.

5. THE COUP FORCES WILL ONLY HAVE CONTROL OF MAHE' ISLAND, MANCHAM MAY ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH HIMSELF AND HIS GOVERNMENT IN ONE OF THE OTHER ISLANDS. (HE MENTIONED ALDABRA OR, ON SECOND THOUGHT PRASLIN). HE WILL LOOK TO THE SUDAN AND PERHAPS SAUDI ARABIA FOR ASSISTANCE.

6. COMMENT: BY THE CLOSE OF THE LAST CONVERSATION MANCHAM SEEMS AT LEAST OPEN TO THE ARGUMENT THAT HIS ATTENTION IS MISPLACED IF HE SEEKS TO BLAME THE US FOR THE COUP. HIS REMARKS ABOUT AN OUTER-ISLAND GOVERNMENT HAD MORE THE TONE OF DESPERATION THAN DETERMINATION. MANCHAM'S LAST COMMENT, ACCOMPANIED BY IRONIC LAUGHTER, WAS, " I MAY HAVE TO ASK FOR ASYLUM IN THE US. MAYBE I CAN GO INTO THE PUBLIC RELATIONS BUSINESS."BREWSTER

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